

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub without introduction of laundry into the tub;

~~permeating water~~ ~~washing for the first time for permeation of water~~ into contaminants; ~~and~~

~~removal of contaminants~~ removing contaminants ~~lightly~~ stuck to a surface of the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period;

~~washing for the second time for~~ separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub; and

draining water from the tub.
2. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub without introduction of laundry into the tub;

permeating ~~washing for the first time for permeation of water~~ into contaminants;[[,]]

~~and removal of~~

removing contaminants ~~lightly~~ stuck to a surface of the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period;

~~washing for the second time for~~ separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub; and

supplying water to the surface of the tub during draining ~~for thereby preventing re-sticking of~~ the contaminants ~~from sticking~~ to the surface of the tub again.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub without introduction of laundry into the tub;
~~washing for the first time for permeation of~~ permeating water into contaminants[[,]];
and
~~removal of~~ removing contaminants ~~lightly~~ stuck to a surface of the tub;
soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period;
~~washing for the second time for~~ separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;
draining water from the tub ~~for the a~~ a first time;
supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for ~~the a~~ a first time ~~for thereby preventing re-sticking of~~ the contaminants ~~from sticking~~ to the surface of the tub again;
supplying water to the tub ~~for a~~ a the second time;
rinsing the surface of the tub; and
draining water from the tub for ~~the a~~ a second time.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub without introduction of laundry into the tub;
~~washing for the first time for permeation of~~ permeating water into contaminants[[,]];
and
~~removal of~~ removing contaminants ~~lightly~~ stuck to a surface of the tub;
soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period;

~~washing for the second time for~~ separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub ~~for the~~ a first time;

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the first time ~~for~~ thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants ~~from sticking to~~ the surface of the tub ~~again~~;

supplying water to the tub for ~~the~~ a second time;

rinsing the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub for ~~the~~ a second time~~[[,]]~~; and

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the second time ~~for~~ thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants ~~from sticking to~~ the surface of the tub ~~again~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub without introduction of laundry into the tub;

permeating ~~washing for the first time for permeation of~~ water into contaminants~~[[,]]~~;

~~removal of~~ removing contaminants ~~lightly~~ stuck to a surface of the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period;

~~washing for the second time for~~ separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub for a ~~the~~ first time;

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the first time ~~for~~ thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants ~~from sticking to~~ the surface of the tub ~~again~~;

supplying water to the tub for ~~the~~ a second time;

rinsing the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub for ~~the~~ a second time;

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the second time ~~for~~ thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants ~~from sticking~~ to the surface of the tub again; and

rotating the tub at a high speed ~~for~~ thereby removing water from the surface of the tub.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, further comprising the step of rotating the tub ~~during~~ while water is supplied to the tub.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the step of washing is performed by rotating a pulsator provided in the tub for forming a water circulation.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the step of washing ~~is performed by~~ permeating water further includes rotating the tub for forming a water circulation.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the step of washing ~~is performed by~~ permeating water further includes rotating the tub at a high speed ~~for~~ thereby circulating water ~~forming a water circulation moving in a~~ radial direction of the tub.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the step of washing permeating water further includes ~~is performed in combination of at least two methods selected from a method for~~ rotating the a pulsator and[[.]] ~~a method for rotating the tub at a low speed, and a method for rotating the tub at a high speed.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 2 to 5,~~ wherein the step of supplying water to the surface of the tub is performed in during a later half of the ~~step for draining step.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 2 to 5,~~ wherein the step of supplying water to the surface of the tub is ~~performed by a method in which the tub is rotated while water is supplied to the tub~~ further includes rotating the tub while water is supplied to the tub.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 2 to 5,~~ wherein the step of supplying water to the surface of the tub is ~~performed by a method in which water is sprayed to the surface of the tub~~ further includes spraying water to the surface of the tub.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 3,~~ further comprising the step of rotating the tub at a high speed ~~for~~ thereby removing water from the surface of the tub.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5,~~ further comprising the step of introducing a bleaching agent into the tub before permeating water into contaminants ~~washing for the first time.~~

16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the bleaching agent is an oxygen group bleaching agent.

17. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the bleaching agent is a halide group bleaching agent.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5,~~ further comprising the step of introducing at least one ~~or more than one~~ sterilizing agent~~[[,]]~~ and a fungicidal agent.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the sterilizing agent is halogenated hydantoin compound that emits hypohalogenated acid.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5,~~ further comprising the step of displaying ~~that~~ a tub cleaning course which is under progress on a display of the washing machine during ~~performance of the steps of~~ tub cleaning.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5,~~ further comprising the step of displaying an accumulated number of washing times after ~~the steps of tub cleaning are finished~~ on a display of the washing machine.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5,~~ further comprising the step of displaying an accumulated number of washing times after ~~the steps of tub cleaning are finished~~, and a target number of washing times on a display of the washing machine.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the target number can be changed ~~as a user likes~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the steps of tub cleaning are performed when ~~the~~ a user manually selects ~~the~~ a tub cleaning course when ~~manually at a time~~ the accumulated number of washing times reaches ~~to~~ the target number of washing times.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the steps of tub cleaning are is performed automatically ~~at a time~~ when the accumulated number of washing times reaches ~~to~~ the target number of washing times.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5,~~ further comprising the step of setting ~~one of modes selected from~~ a mode where ~~in which the~~ a user manually selects a tub cleaning course ~~to progress the steps of tub cleaning at a time~~ when the accumulated number of washing times displayed on the display of the washing

machine reaches to the a target number of washing times required for the tub cleaning, and a mode in which the steps of tub cleaning are progressed automatically.

27. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5~~, further comprising the step of ~~of the user~~ setting a reserved time so that ~~the steps of~~ tub cleaning is performed automatically if the set reserved time is reached.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of setting a mode where tub cleaning automatically progresses.

29. (New) The method as claimed in claim1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating the tub for forming a water circulation.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating the tub at a high speed thereby circulating water in a radial direction of the tub.

31. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water further rotating a pulsator and rotating the tub at a high speed.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water further includes rotating the tub at a low speed and rotating the tub at a high speed.

33. (New) The method as claimed in claim1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating a pulsator and rotating the tub at a low speed.

34. (New) The method as claimed in claim1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating a pulsator and rotating the tub at a high speed.

35. (New) The method as claimed in claim1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating the tub at a low speed and rotating the tub at a high speed.